Data Description for Davis Pond Waterfowl Data

General:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) conducts three waterfowl surveys each year, one survey during each of the months of January, November, and December. A number of species use the Barataria estuary as winter habitat, and peak occupancy for most species occurs during these three months. One year's survey data consists of three consecutive months, observations from November and December along with January of the following year. (September surveys were flown in 2000 and 2004.)

LDWF observers fly three north-south transects over Breton Sound in a light aircraft, looking for the presence of thirteen waterfowl species: baldpate, blue-winged teal, canvasback, coots, gadwall, green-winged teal, hooded merganser, mallard, mottled duck, pintail, ring-necked duck, scaup, and shoveler. Geese appear in the record in December, 2004.

Data Column Descriptions:

Date: mm/dd/yyyy

Time: Military (24 hour) time.

Transect Line: Three north-south transects (see Map 2003-04-213.pdf) numbered 23, 24, and 25.

Direction flown: Indicates whether the observers traveled north-to-south or south-to-north.

Waterfowl species: Thirteen waterfowl species, listed above, were counted for each marsh type on each transect line. Note that on November 6, 2002, and on September 10, 2003, Wildlife and Fisheries biologists flew Transect 25 without observing any waterfowl.

Marsh type: Indicates the habitat, classified according to the Chabreck and Linscombe marsh vegetation type, "fresh", "intermediate", "brackish", or "saline". Includes an additional habitat type, "agricultural". None of the three transects covers all five habitat types. See below.

Number Counted: Indicates the number of a given species observed within a given marsh type on a given transect. Null entries are not the same as zeroes. Null entries result when a transect covers no habitat of a given marsh type. For example, Transect 23 covers no saline marsh and no agricultural land, so all entries for these marsh types are null for this transect.